# Cornell Countryman



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# Cornell Countryman

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#### Editorial

#### The Need For Farm Policy Debate

A G-DOM should be encouraged by the size of the audience at last month's panel on government subsidies. The turn-out shows that there is an active interest in agricultural policy throughout the University. Public debate of agricultural issues is sorely lacking at Cornell. Ag-Dom could sponsor many more lectures, panels, and debates to the great benefit of the college.

How many people off the ag campus are aware of the importance of Cornell agricultural economists in national affairs? For that matter, how many agriculture students realize why the philosophy they hear expounded in class so closely resembles policy that issues from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A debate of farm programs between, say, Charles Brannan and Professor Herrell DeGraff, would be extremely revealing and one of the most newsworthy events to take place on this campus in years.

There is no reason why such events can't take place. The campus contains some of the foremost spokesmen for (for lack of a better term) "conservative" agricultural policy. It should not be hard to find a partisan of "radical" (an unfortunate term, also) agricultural policy who is willing to come to Cornell to talk. We'll grant that it might be difficult to get Charles

Brannan to come all the way from Denver, but there are many people within New York State who hold views as contrary to Cornell's as his are.

One rarely hears the high support point of view explained or justified because there is no one at Cornell that believes in it. At the recent government subsidy panel, Professor K. L. Robinson made an able presentation of the high support case, but this isn't the answer. A theologian shouldn't be asked to make the case for atheism.

· Public debate and discussion of the various schools of agricultural thought would lead to a better understanding of the problems facing agriculture. We'd like to see representatives of the "conservative" and "radical" viewpoints challenge one another and defend their views.

SAR

#### January Cover

This month's cover is the third drawn by Aileen Merriam. Previously, Mrs. Merriam drew the may and October covers of the Countryman. She somehow finds time to draw between studying and teaching comparative anatomy labs.

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### Remove Lice From A Corpse?

by Zilch

S OME time ago Khrushchev said that Russia would bury the United States. Zilch has just learned how the Russians intend to do this. It seems that a dairy area in Russia has challenged Oneida County (the leading milk-producing county in the New York milkshed) to a competition to see who can produce the most. Zilch foresees the Russians challenging counties in Kansas to wheat producing contests, counties in Iowa to corn producing contests and so on through all our produce. In the end, the Russians will bury us in our surpluses. Seriously, it's good to see Russia and the United States engaged in economic competition rather than military competition.

Professors-are-Human Department: Zilch likes this story Prof. L. B. Darrah relates. It seems that Professor Darrah arrived hot and tired at a hotel in New York City late one night to attend a meeting the next day. Before retiring he wadded up the shirt he had been wearing and threw it in a corner of his suitcase. The next morning he pulled a clean shirt from his suitcase and started to put it on only to find that he had

packed one of his son's shirts.

He then unwadded the shirt he had cast off the night before and holding the lapels of his jacket closed he went to a haberdashery to buy a new shirt. He told

the salesman the size, brand, and name of the style shirt he wanted. The salesman told him that they didn't have the brand of shirt he wanted but had the same thing at a slightly higher price. Professor Darrah asked what the difference was and the salesman said there was none except the material was better. Professor Darrah bought the shirt and returned to his hotel room. He stripped off his wrinkled shirt, wadded it into a ball, threw it into his suitcase, opened his new shirt and discovered that it had French cuffs.

Zilch commends to your attention the Samuel L. Stewart Prize Essay Contest. You'll pick up \$100 if you write the best 600-800 word essay on producing high quality milk. The contest closes on April 15. Contact Professor B. L. Herrington of the Department of

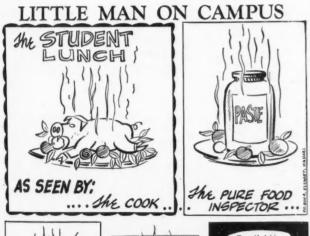
Dairy Industry for details.

Zilch is bursting his britches about now-at the annual convention of Agricultural College Magazines, Associated, the Countryman won awards in every category. The 1959 Farm and Home Week issue won third prize for general excellence, Steve Breth's article on plow planting won second prize in the technical presentation contest, Bunnie Dervin's article on careers in business won second prize in the material of interest to women contest, and the December 1959 cover showing an Alaskan fisherman holding a giant crab

won the first prize cover award.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the happy home of a group of devoted bureaucrats whose main purpose in life is to give information on any subject to anyone who wants it. Zilch has in his possession a list of questions that have stumped or at least startled the people who have to reply to letters that come into the Department. Here are a few of the best: What are worms with legs in my basement? What do you use to remove lice from a corpse? How many hops will it take to make 100 gallons of home brew? What is the best gasoline sold?-I want to remove my dandruff by washing my hair in it. How much potassium cyanide is lethal to a human? Can you give me a recipe for a home brew?-If I can change the taste of my formulae I can get more than 25 cents a bottle for it. Does corned beef come from cows that have been fed corn?

Happy New Year Kiddies.







The BIOLOGY



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Some of the many racks of country clothes in the Old Firehouse in Homer, N. Y.

## Fashion Off The Beaten Track

by Brenda L. Dervin '60

WHO would open a dress-shop off the beaten track in a small up-state New York town . . . and expect to make a go of it? Not many people. But, Mrs. Harold Armstrong, a 1933 graduate of the College of Home Economics, did just that.

A year ago November, Mrs. Armstrong opened a country clothes -the Old Firehouse-in Hom-

er, N.Y.
Mrs. Armstrong recalls that she was warned she wouldn't succeed with a shop in a small town. But, she explains, she wanted the kind of customers who make a day of coming to her store-shoppers who go out for lunch, do some antiquing, and are looking for brand name country clothes that are well-made and distinctive. And, she points out, "There's something special

about going to a place that you've found yourself-this is the appeal of most out-of-the-way stores.

Mrs. Armstrong's philosophy worked-after one year of business, her Homer shop is thriving, and, in cooperation with several other people, she has opened shops at Wells College and in Ithaca.

The original store in Homer is the cooperative venture of Mrs. Armstrong and her partner, Mrs. R. N. Miller, who handles the business end of the operation. Both women have raised families and, according to Mrs. Armstrong, "have had a fill of community activities."

Mrs. Armstrong explains that her circle of friends had always sent away for country clothes because they had never been able to get what they wanted in upstate New York. So, in a search for something to do after their children moved away, Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Miller found a dress shop the logical answer.

The site of the Homer shop is actually a firehouse, owned by Mrs. Miller's husband. Both women redecorated the firehouse from their own attics and nearby antique stores. A large wheel mounted on a base is used as a skirt rack; antique chests hold sweaters, jewelry, and purses; an antique print covers the walls; and a pot belly stove is tucked away in a corner.

The casual shopper is not only amazed by the decoration of the shop, but can see such clothing items as imported English ties, Tyrolian hats, mix-and-match wool skirts, wool for made-to-order suits, and lounging outfits-all in country colors—greens, browns, yellows, and blues. As one shopper stated, "You go in to browse and you can't leave without buying something."

When buying items for the Firehouse, Mrs. Armstrong says she usually selects according to her own taste . . . except in color. Choosing country clothes, she adds, isn't too difficult because they are basically classic.

One of the biggest buying problems, Mrs. Armstrong explains, is the seasons. "Right now, manufacturers are showing summer bathing suits and are getting ready for fall and winter showings.

The newly-opened branch of the Old Firehouse in Ithaca is being run by twenty - year - old CiCi Heasely, daughter of Walter C. Heasely, a member of the Cornell University Board of Trustees.

Miss Heasely explains that the Ithaca store, located in Community Corners, is very much like the Homer store and carries the same lines of clothes.

For Fun and Entertainment

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378 ELMIRA ROAD

**BEVERAGES** 

In Syracuse . . .

## Extension Agents Teach 'Em on TV

by Steven A. Breth '60

ONE morning last fall in the studios of Syracuse, N. Y.'s WHEN-TV, County Agricultural Agent Tony Aja stood in front of the television cameras watching the upraised hand of the program director. The director dropped his hand and Aja was on the air. Confidently, Aja began to explain to viewers how to prepare a garden for winter. Ten minutes later the program was over. In those ten minutes 100,000 people had been watching.

Aja and 20 other extension agents from six counties near Syracuse have cooperated for over five years to plan and perform on WHENTV's "Party Line." "Party Line" is a ten minute program from 9:10 to 9:20 a.m., Monday through Friday each week.

The agents that participate in "Party Line" are just one of six groups of extension personnel that put on shows in six cities throughout New York State. Programs originate in Albany, Binghamton, Rochester, Buffalo, and Utica as well as Syracuse. Extension programs are on the air for 3½ hours a week, playing to an audience of nearly 1½ million people.

**TV Opens Doors** 

Because "Party Line" is an early morning show the audience is made up of housewives and children. The extension agents know who is in their audience and they think it is worth their time to reach them.

4-H Club agent Phyllis DuBois says, "We're interested in promoting 4-H work to everyone, mothers and children, alike. We're amazed by the number of people that say, 'we've seen you on TV' and it immediately opens the door."

Many of the County agricultural agents put on programs designed to help the consumer understand agriculture or extension work. County Agent William Quinn frequently puts on programs showing consumers where food comes from and what is involved in producing it. "There is a lack of knowledge and understanding of what the present-day farmer receives, invests, and earns," he says. Tony Aja adds that "good consumer relations are a continuing operation" year after year.

"Party Line" performers report that it takes them about as much time to prepare for a television program as it does to prepare for a good local meeting. And, of course,

Agricultural news stories get professional treatment from Bill Quinn, County Agentat-large, as an example of an Extension farm show.



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Some of the many racks of country clothes in the Old Firehouse in Homer, N. Y.

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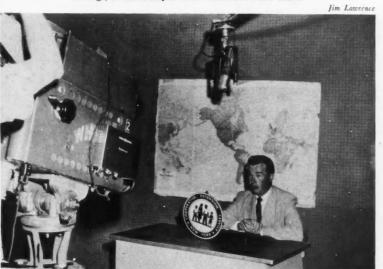
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the audience for the television show is vastly larger. With 21 agents taking turns on "Party Line" each one does a show about once a month.

Four time a year all the agents meet with Extension TV Specialist Jim Lawrence to map the programs for the next three months.

To make planning easier, most agents keep a file with possible topics for a show. They get their ideas from reading and from talking with viewers, the TV specialist, and W H E N-TV's program director. County agricultural agents on "Party Line" have discussed such varied subjects as mulches, electrical wiring, garden insect control, pruning fruit trees, and many more.

Home demonstration and 4-H agents stick to a more domestic fare with programs such as outdoor cooking, last minute Christmas gifts, planning a kitchen, and fruit and vegetable sauces. In general, the agents try to stick with subjects that they are completely familiar with.

The next step is to organize the material. Most agents use a format—an outline and guide to the areas the agent wants to cover. No one memorizes lines. The agent who knows his topic throughly, can talk freely about it in front of the camera. "The fact that I did not write down what I was going to say, helped me most in learning to relax and enjoy myself," says Home Demonstration Agent Marilynn Miller.

After preparing the format the

agent gathers the props he needs to illustrate the program. The agent then discusses his show with the station's program director and has a rehearsal on the television stage. The next day the program is on the air.

Relax and Be Calm

Performing on television has one main problem—nervousness. 4-H

cedures. This first hand experience teaches them how to utilize television's capabilities and limitations to better present a program.

TV specialist Jim Lawrence maintains a running criticism of the programs on "Party Line." He cheers the successes and makes suggestions to improve the duds. But the main improvements come through the



lim Lagurence

Mary Jane Van Meter, Cayuga Assistant HDA, shows homemakers how to stretch the food budget with low-priced meat cuts.

Club Agent Adelaide Kennedy was extremely uneasy before her first few shows. But as she gained experience she came to enjoy them. She says, "agents should give themselves time to get used to the rigors of television." Nothing reduces nervousness like a little experience and confidence.

Periodically the agents organize a workshop and refresher course at the television studios. The station's staff gives the agents an intensive indoctrination into television proagents themselves.

**Professionals Enthused** 

What do television professionals think of the show? Gordon Alderman, program director of WHEN-TV, was one of the early proponents of the show and still is enthusiastic about it. Station personnel speak admiringly of the ingenuity of the extension performers. The station itself is well satisfied, too or obviously it wouldn't have underwritten the production costs of the unsponsored program for the past six years.

Extension agents should consider organizing a TV program if there is a large station nearby that is willing to cooperate. No one claims that TV is a substitute for personal visits and meetings. No one claims that it is a way to reach the farmer. But television is a way to reach thousands of families in a few minutes. It gives agents the opportunity to meet the growing needs of the urban home-owner and it gives the extension service a chance to build public relations for itself.

Mrs. Marilynn Miller, a veteran of many "Party Line" programs, says "The large audiences reached by TV more than justify all the time spent. Extension personnel all over the country should consider this and learn the possibility of including educational TV in their programs."

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The National Science Foundation backs undergraduate research

## Research Grants for Students

by Elizabeth Pomada '61

DURING the past summer an undergraduate in the College of Agriculture discovered a chemical that controls the growth of bacterial flagella.

Bacteriology major Linda Blumenthal, '60, worked under an undergraduate research participation grant from the National Science Foundation. As the demand for scientists grows, research foundations are realizing that more scientists will be available only when more students are studying the sciences. By financing research at the high school and undergraduate level promising students get a taste of what professional investigation is like. Results such as Mrs. Blumenthal's are the dividends on the Foundation's investment.

Mrs. Blumenthal was studying the bacterium Bacillus circulans. This bacteria's colony moves 3 ways: it rotates, it moves forward in bullet-like formation, and moves forward and rotates its head. The colony rotates counterclockwise two-thirds of the time and clockwise one-third of the time—a non-hereditary characteristic.

Why the colony rotates and why it rotates in specific patterns are questions that Mrs. Blumenthal hopes to answer with her bacteriology senior project this year.

Mrs. Blumenthal was one of 30 undergraduates from all over the country participating in the first Cornell University undergraduate research program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The Foundation gives grants to 200 Universities and research institutes in the U.S. to allow undergraduates, science teachers, and high school students to work with the staff in research for training. The main purpose of this program is to give undergraduates a chance to really experience scientific research.

Prof. George C. Kent explains that during the 10-week summer session and the 2-term winter session, students are given financial support and are "used as junior scientists, not as laborers." In other words, the student actually becomes a member of a professional research team.

Students in the biological sciences or agricultural engineering may apply to the Program Director if they are in the scholastic upper half of their class. They must meet staff approval and, after indicating the area they're interested in, are chosen by the individual staff members they will join.

Other students working under research participation grants were:

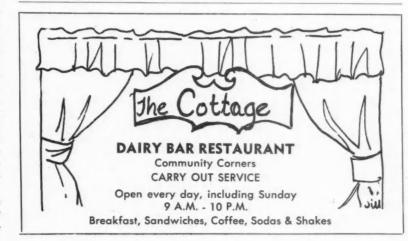
Jane Brody, '62, who studied the relationship between plant nutrition and apple scab fungus. Certain apple trees afflicted with a vitamin deficiency disease (yellow leaves) are resistant to apple scab fungus. Miss Brody ran chemical analyses on yellow leaves comparing them to the green area.

ing them to the green ones. Her studies revealed that there may be a chemical associated with the disease that produces apple scab resistance. Miss Brody is very pleased with the program. "I'm very happy to see that something is finally being done to encourage undergraduates who hope to make science their life's work."

• Marcy Stoffman, '61, who did extensive work with plant tissue culture with Dr. F. C. Steward in the botany department. She found that regardless of any notion people have of "one person alone in a lab with his microscope," teamwork and contact with many others is necessary for involved projects. Miss Stoffman feels that she wasn't prepared enough for her work and, if at all possible (a student can only participate in one session), would like to try lab work again.

• Lois Kraus, '61, worked on a problem that included field and laboratory work-the toxicity of insecticides to flies. Miss Kraus worked in area dairy barns and made tests on the chemicals and flies in her laboratory. She was trying to determine the initial killing and residual effects of the chemicals. "I learned more than just specific techniques-how research was carried on . . . the problems, disillusionment, and drudgery . . .. You never realize how much there is unknown-how much unexplored territory-until you start work. This summer was very worthwhile-you can't get everything out of books, you have to learn through experi-





## Diplomat In Dungarees

Communism can be countered with knowhow and friendship.

A Cornellian reports on his rewarding work in Vietnam.

by Ray Borton '54

THE pleasant feminine voice on the short wave radio has just broken into my reverie created by the Bach harpsicord recording and reminded me that I'm listening to Radio Hanoi, voice of the (Communist) People's Democracy of North Vietnam. But for that blandly beautiful voice I might have been back in Ithaca, listening to the phonograph after having worked my free afternoon in the plant breeding department greenhouse. But rather, the feminine voice with the touch of felinity reminds me that I'm here in South Vietnam and have just finished a day's work at the Dalat Horticultural Station.

Toan, my Vietnamese interpreter, constant companion, and friend, has now turned the radio to a station playing South American mambos, thereby showing caution, sentiment, and modern taste. Caution because in South Vietnam listening to the Communist North Vietnam radio station is discouraged, sentiment because he is a refugee from Hanoi himself who fled Communism in 1954, and last but not least, plain preference. Mambos are lots more popular than Bach among young Vietnamese.

Today we've been planting beans at the Horticultural Station. Since there is no background of recorded research, we must start simply. This particular experiment employs six different kinds of beans and peanuts, both local and imported varieties. Each kind of bean is planted in six different plot treatments: 1. Control, 2. Control, 3. With inoculation (for nitrogen fixation) only, 4. Inoculation plus lime, 5. Inoculation plus phosphate, 6. Inoculation plus lime plus phosphate. All the plots received the same amount of potassium sulphate. This experiment in two to four replications at two different stations will begin to tell us something about the responses of these different beans and peanuts to inoculations and fertilizers. The inoculation cultures came from the U.S.D.A. at Beltsville, Md.

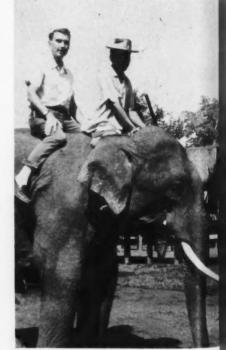
These incidents illustrate everyday happenings and the work of an International Voluntary Services, Inc., team member in South Vietnam. There are now twelve of us here, all recent graduates of colleges of agriculture, acting as junior technicians on the American foreign aid program administered by the United States Operations Mission in Vietnam. By the time you read this, one of my two years here will have been completed and if the second is as varied and interesting as the first, I'll be doubly satisfied with my decision to spend two years abroad on a voluntary wage scale.

Rice and Duck Feathers You can find facts on the agriculture of Vietnam in an encyclopedia; that its main crop is rice, second is rubber; that it is a producer of tea, coffee, cinnamon, and black pepper. A recent report might even tell you that the third largest agricultural export after rice and rubber is duck feathers. A travel book might tell you about the tropical climate, the sights of Saigon, the capital city, and a few excursions to various temples, pagodas, etc. A sociology text might mention the various mountain tribes-people who are related to the Indonesion-Polynesian-Maylayan group. History books will list the many kingdoms, civilizations, and occupations that have come and gone from the area. Postage stamp collectors see pictures of elephants, pagodas, and the president of South Vietnam, Ngo Dien Diem.

People to People Aid

But to actually be here, to see and live it all brings an intimate awareness of these facts and a far greater understanding of it all. Land reform and development is more than just a word. It is a picture of lines of farmers waiting for their loans, resettled refugee villages where new land and new crops are bringing better housing and better food. The market place is no longer an economic term, it is a teeming area full of people, goods, smells, and dirt.

Technical assistance on a people to people basis is the basic principle of IVS. Here in Vietnam we are



The author visits a mountaineer village for an elephant ride.



Ray Borto

Plant breeding in South Vietnam: Ray Borton looks over squash plants in the experimental plots.

acting as a link between the American aid program and the Vietnamese people. Our team is scattered throughout the country in one's, two's, and three's, working on various kinds of crop and livestock improvement stations.

The stations vary in climate and crops and livestock. Where one group is concerned with seed multiplication of fiber crops on an extensive scale, another is testing vegetables in the high mountain valleys on a rather small scale. One station is located in an irrigated lowland, while another has been taken out of the humid tropical jungle. Growing one million coffee seedlings was the assignment of one station, while another of our team members has been supervising the growing and distribution of 3,000 cocao seedlings. Citrus, sunflowers, sorghums, sweet potatoes, manioc, melons, kafir corn, and kenaff (for fiber) are just a few of the crops with which we must fast become familiar.

In such a situation, adaptability

is the key to our work. With the advice of our American aid program technician supervisors and using our own common sense and experience, we go ahead, working with the Vietnamese station managers and their staffs. Perhaps a big portion of our real work is onthe-job training for these counterparts with whom we work, for their training in agriculture is generally even more meager than ours.

#### Ingenuity at a Premium

Sometimes we must spend hours and even days in planning projects with our co-workers. At other times it is necessary to actually do the work of implementation in order to demonstrate new techniques. Upon arriving at a new station recently, two team members first had to demonstrate the use of a tractor and plow because the idea of pattern plowing and turning the soil into a furrow had never been seen before. Then there were a number of new machines, all provided by the American aid program, but still in the crates waiting for assembly. Locating the right wrenches to use in the assembly was one of the biggest problems of all.

These same two team members received an odd reception when they paid their first call on the chief of the province. His first question was, "Did you bring along your own food like all the rest of the Americans?" They answered an emphatic, "No." Throughout the country we have found the local foods to be excellent and with a few precautions they are as safe as any imported canned products.

This same chief of province was quite adamant in his viewpoint that Vietnam would be better of if it could exist without foreign aid. However, he seemed pleased with the team members' work and asked them to teach English classes in the evenings. As soon as they agreed, the word went out. To their surprise, they had 168 pupils signed up. Among their students are most of the leading provincial officials.

Team members have found that teaching English classes is a fine way to make the acquaintance of the rising, self-educated, younger generation of South Vietnam. The interest in the English language is phenomenal. It has become the international language of Asia almost overnight. At recent state visits to Vietnam by the presidents of Korea, the Philippines, and India, the of-

ficial language was English. Regional conferences are in English. Many new textbooks arriving in the country are in English rather than French, which was the official language of the colonial days of Indo-China.

#### International Cuisine

Adaptability is the keynote to our living conditions too. The New York Times reporter who visited one of our stations wrote that two team members were living in a "cramped cottage" and wearing dungarees and sweat shirts in the field for their work. Our food varies from American style to French, Chinese, and Vietnamese. We are free to set up our own household on the allowance of local currency that is provided for our living expenses. Housing is provided by the Vietnamese government and varies from the "cramped cottage" to an old French villa. In all cases we live with our Vietnamese interpreters and sometimes with our working counterparts as well.

Our interpreters serve as language teachers too. All of us try to learn as much of the local language as possible, although we realize that it is impossible to become really fluent when studying only in spare time over the two years we spend here. We are able to learn enough to enable us to travel and work without the aid of an interpreter after a few months here. Learning just enough of the language for a rudimentary conversation means much to the Vietnamese people. They are both surprised and pleased to find that Americans can and will learn a language that is completely removed from English and which is valuable to them only in this limited area of the world.

#### **Fringe Benefits**

Not only do we learn a little of the language, but we find ourselves learning much more than we could have anticipated. There are many peoples and customs in Vietnam. besides the Vietnamese themselves. Various mountain-tribe groups populate the highlands and the remains of the ancient Cham and Khmer civilizations are scattered over the lowlands. Flora and fauna are intriguing and colorful. One of our team members who finished his two year term in January took home two tiger skins as souvenirs. One of our biggest problems on the stations in growing sweet potatoes has been the raids of the wild pigs. Pea-



Na Trang, seaside resort and fishing harbor in South Vietnam, is a favorite weekend spot for IVS team members in that vicinity.

cocks and wild chickens are the pheasant and quail of Vietnam. Orchid collecting is a favorite passtime in the mountain areas.

It's still the people that one meets that really take the cake for being interesting. Our contacts with the Vietnamese vary from domestics to Deans, mountaineers to Ministers. Among the American community we've met the Ambassador, many aid program and government officials and technicians and their families, contract group advisers, exchange professors, both Protestant and Catholic relief and mission personnel, professional hunters, tourists, and so it goes. And then there are our international friends, the Dutch and Australian agricultural technicians, the Filipino movie director, the former French legionaires, the Indian cyclist going around the world, the Japanese surveyor, and many others.

Not that our work isn't intensely

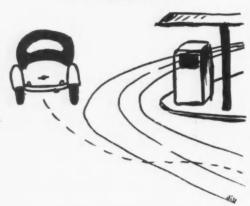
interesting, too. Introducing new plant materials, hitherto unknown varieties, new uses of fertilizers and lime, the use of insecticides and fungicides, the operation of new machinery, and helping plan water buffalo and livestock improvement programs are the opposite of dull. At my horticultural station we have some blackberries from Texas, avocados from California, broccoli, Hubbard squash, and fancy petunias, all things never before grown in Vietnam. Of the other species of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, we have many new varieties that haven't been seen here before. Some will of course not prove as adaptable as local ones, but others may provide excellent new commercial crop material. Each new day brings new progress and growth of these new materials which is watched with many interested eyes.

As I finish this writing, the short wave radio is again bringing in some excellent music, this time "Incidental Music from Russian Films" broadcast by Radio Moscow. Although pleasant, it reminds one of the proximity of the Communist influence against which our work is

indirectly aimed.



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Bob Bu

Childcare is an important part of the duties in the home management apartments.

Housekeeping for Credit

## **Education Majors Learn By Doing!**

by Margaret FitzGerald '62

I SN'T Economics of the Household 302 just for home ec ed majors? Few coeds realize that EH 302, Home Management Residence, is open to all home economics students whether they plan to teach or follow some other career in home economics. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students may register for the course.

EH 302 is a four hour course given for seven weeks twice each term. Home ec ed majors schedule it with practice teaching and home nursing. Some also take courses in special problems.

A student who is not an education major may take

the course along with a regular program of courses.

Everyone who takes EH 302 lives in the home management apartments in Martha Van. The cost of living in the apartments is \$140 per student. Each student has an opportunity to live in both a large and small unit.

The students divide up the responsibilities for managing the work in the apartments. The instructor joins the students for several meals each week. A

graduate assistant lives with them.

"What is living in the home management apartments like?" Prof. Alice J. Davey says that "we aim to provide the students with some of the resources homemakers use so that the student may begin to understand and appreciate what is involved in the management of the home and come to realize some of the responsibilities in the job."

In Apartment A, the larger unit, the students operate on a food allowance of \$1.15 to \$1.25 a day. Students experiment with various methods and equipment used in performing household tasks. According to Professor Davey, each day is a testing experience for the students as they learn by doing. They organize their work and evaluate their performances as responsibilities are rotated.

The aroma of freshly baked bread lured me through the spacious living room into the kitchen where the manager for the week was preparing lunch. She remarked that for all her success of the moment, she had burned last night's lemon sauce for the snow

She was assisted by the waitress who was making a cabbage and pineapple salad. I was told that life in the home management apartments is a self-directed experience. At the first evening meal, the waitress was faced with the problem of how to serve the coffee. She started to take the coffee pot to the table and then decided to pour the coffee into cups in the kitchen only to pour it back into the coffee pot before she served.

When one goes shopping, it is helpful to know where the stores are. Thus the manager had stopped in the P&C to ask where the A&P was when she bought the groceries for the first week.

As I turned the corner into the nursery, I found a baby contentedly taking her formula as she was gently held by a coed. Some of the students had no experience in handling a small child and find that giving the first bath is quite a splashy, slippery affair.

They gain confidence as they take care of six months old Joanne Showacre. She arrives at 8:30 in the morning and stays until 5 p.m.

Two students live upstairs in Apartment B. The food allowance is 85 cents per day for each. Apartment B has a minimum of equipment and limited space. One of the students is the manager and has all the responsibilities she would have as a homemaker.

A student who has been married for a year was the manager when I visited Apartment B. She told me that she had been trying to find more efficient ways of doing her housework while working under a limited budget.

Although the course is open to all home economics students, it is required of home ec ed majors. As part of the Smith-Hughes Act passed in 1917, all prospective home economics teachers are required to have experience in home management responsibilities.

One coed taking the course said that living and working with others had helped her to apply the principles taught in all her home economics courses. Through use of various materials and methods, she had gained confidence in coping with the many problems which confront the homemaker.

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## Flowing Foliage For A Dull Desk

by Robert B. Gambino '61

PLANTS can be as interesting and decorative as your roommate (and considerably less obnoxious).

You don't need the horticultural background of the late L. H. Bailey to produce a tangle of lush green growth on your desk. There are many plants that can be grown in your dormitory room or apartment without much trouble—lending a spring-like atmosphere to the room.

The foliage plants are the most popular indoor plants because of the relative ease involved in caring for them. The bulbous plants follow, with their bright flowers, such as in Amaryllis or varied colored leaves typical of Caladium.

Flowering plants like Geraniums and African Violets need special attention in order to produce blooms of any interest.

The difficulties involved in producing a jungle effect in your room are numerous, but easily overcome in most cases. The atmosphere indoors is usually too hot and dry. A little ventilation will remedy this. Improper care is a malpractice to be avoided. Never shock plants with hot and cold temperatures, place them in drafts, or poke holes

in the soil with your ball-point pen.

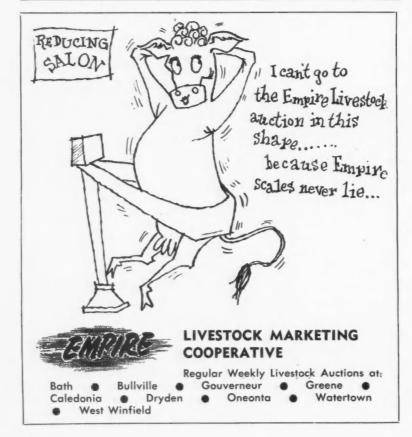
The foliage of the plants may be kept clean and free from dust and insects by occasionally rinsing it under the shower. A better method is to use a sponge or soft cloth to clean the top and bottom of the leaves. Water should be at room temperature, especially for African Violets.

Determining the correct amount of light for a plant is difficult. Plants grow best when there is plenty of sunlight and moisture. However, there are many plants that are able to survive under a minimum of light.

Plants requiring more light can have the deficiency made up artificially by using a strategically placed florescent lamp. For most plants, the more light, the better its growth.

The temperature for optimum growth varies with the plant. A majority of plants will flourish at a temperature between 60° and 75°F. Cool temperatures at night are desirable. Nevertheless, a plant on a windowsill or near a window is apt to become frozen if the window is left open to a chilly Ithaca night. Protect plants by moving them to a safer position or by placing newspaper between the plant and the window.

Watering is a delicate subject. Your plants should be watered as often as needed. This requirement depends on the plant's species and vigor, the weather and the time of the year. When watering, water thoroughly and fully. Mature plants usually need only enough water to keep them from wilting. The more vigorous plants will need a good soaking. Be careful not to overwater and thereby kill the plant by waterlogging the soil.



The best soil used for most plants can be obtained from any florist. It consists of one part peatmoss, one part mason's sand and one part garden loam.

Reporting plants can pose a problem for the indoor gardener. With the above soil mix, the correct size pots, and a little practice, no trouble should be had. Repot only plants that are growing vigorously and whose roots have become crowded in the pot.

Feeding plants is a good practice and should be carried out when the plant is actively growing. Soluble fertilizers can be purchased from your local florist and should be applied once a month according to the manufacturers' directions.

The conditions under which plants are grown in the home often encourage the development of insect pests and disease. All-purpose house-plant sprays can be purchased for the control of plant enemies. Aerosol sprays or liquid concentrates containing Malathion are recommended. If plants become heavily infested or infected they should be removed and replaced with healthy plants.

LOW LIGHT Chinese Evergreen





Horticulture

Philodendron (left) and Swiss Cheese plant (right) are two plants that grow readily in low light.

Grows well in water.

	Rex Begonia	Needs organic matter and good drainage.
	Grape Ivy	Trails, decorative.
	"Rudolph Roehrs"	
	Dieffenbachia	Suited for large containers, decorative. Needs
		humid conditions and warm temperature.
	Dracaena	Don't let it dry out.
	Swiss-Cheese Plant	Can be trained, suited for large containers,
		decorative.
	Philodendron	Climber, or trailer. Will grow in cool
	1 miodenaron	temperatures (50°F.) Enjoys humid conditions.
	Bow-string Hemp	Good for indoor conditions—warm and dry
	bow-string Hemp	locations. May be grown at low temperatures.
	G t	
	Syngonium	Easy to grow.
	Wandering Jew	Will grow in water, a trailer. Withstands warm
		and dry locations.
M	ODERATE LIGHT	
	Coleus	Can be grown easily from cuttings.
	English Ivv	Trails, will grow in water, requires cool
	Linguisit Ivy	temperatures and no direct sunlight.
		temperatures and no direct sunlight.

The following plants can easily be grown on your desk or window sill:

Peperomia Withstands warm and dry locations and adverse conditions.

Golden Pothos A climber—withstands warm and dry conditions and poor light.

BRIGHT LIGHT

Croton

Fiddle-leaf Fig

and poor light.

Decorative.

Suited for large containers, decorative, will

Fiddle-leaf Fig

Suited for large containers, decorative, will withstand dry soil, prefers warm temperature.

Don't over-water.

Prayer plant

African Violet

Suited for large containers, decorative, will withstand dry soil, prefers warm temperature.

Don't over-water.

Easy to grow.

Will grow in less light, but needs sunlight for

Prayer plant

African Violet

African Violet

BULBS AND TUBERS

Easy to grow.

Easy to grow.

Will grow in less light, but needs sunlight for flowering. Likes cool nights (60°-65°). Don't shock it with cold water.

Give it plenty of light. Beware of scale insects.

Amaryllis Don't overwater—they need good light and warm temperatures for sooner blooming.

Caladium Warm temperatures and semi-shade. Decorative.

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Sociologists' tool

## Level of Living Scale

Carole J. Wedner '61

THE ring of the doorbell echoed through the house. A homemaker turned from the stove and, without removing her apron, hurried to the door. Through the window she saw a young man carrying a clip board. Setting her face to its "I-don't-want-any" expression, she opened the door.

"I'm Robert Danley," the man said. "I'm from the College of Agriculture at Cornell University. I'd like to take a few minutes of your time to ask you some questions."

With a relieved smile the homemaker opened the door wide and ushered him into the living room.

Forty-five minutes later, the interview completed, Mr. Danley thanked the homemaker and left, heading for the next house in the sample of rural households.

As a member of a team of seven, Mr. Danley made many such interviews. One of the purposes of the interviews was to set up a new level of living scale. This scale would consist of a list of items (see box). The more items on the list a family owned, the higher would be their level of living.

Sociologists needed a scale that could encompass farmers and city people, plus those who lived in rural areas, but did not receive their incomes from farming.

Previous scales were in existence, but, they could be used to study only farm or only urban populations. When an experimenter wanted to compare two different groups, he had no yardstick common to both.

Older scales also needed revising because of the items on them. For instance, the older scales separated high from low level of living by whether or not a car was owned. Since so many families now have automobiles, it was decided that the relative newness of the car would distinguish high and low levels of living.

Mr. Danley, who is now a Professor in the Department of Rural Sociology at Cornell, and his interviewing team, talked to 549 residents of Broome County. During the course of the interviews they discovered the education, occupation, material possessions, and participation in clubs of the residents.

When the interviews were completed, Professor Danley and Professor Charles E. Ramsey analyzed the answers. They used occupation as a basis to determine the socioeconomic status of the families interviewed. The items possessed by high status families and not by low status families were used in the new scale. So, Professor Danley was able to establish a thirteen and a nine item scale to measure level of living.

"Because level of living is related to socio-economic status," he explained, "we were not surprised that the relative position of a fam-

USING this new level of living scale, sociologists can determine in a short time the socio-economic status of an individual, a family, or a large group. How many of these things do you own?

- 1. Hot and cold running water.
- 2. Tub and shower in bath.
- 3. Piano
- Washing machine automatic, semi-automatic, or combination washer-dryer.
- 5. Freezer—separate from the refrigerator.
- 6. Electric sweeper.
- 7. Electric clock.
- 8. An automobile two years old or newer.
- 9. Four or more magazine subscriptions.

ily on the level of living scale is significantly correlated with its other societal activities. Both scales predicted membership in formal organizations, leadership in the same organizations, and educational status."

The accuracy and predictibility of the scales were tested in another series of interviews in Cattaraugus County, New York. Professors Danley and Ramsey chose a typical region that had a significant number of low-income farm families to test the validity of the scale.

The findings showed the relationship of level of living to the variables of 1) income, size, productivity, and quality of a farm; 2) attachment of the family to the farm; 3) social and occupational isolation; 4) current health of the family members and their use of health insurance. The utility of the scale for a distinct second sample was demonstrated.

Thus Professors Danley and Ramsey established a contemporary level of living scale that is short, and includes items to be found in rural New York in the 1950's and '60's. It is a scale that can be used for nonfarm as well as farm people. The scale has already aided other Cornell professors in their research and will continue to do so for years to come.



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